EMERSON GRANTS GO LIVE

Flip to **10-11** to see how Perez '14 and Livingston '14 dedicated their summers to the arts.

FACE-OFF: PLEDGING CHANGES

See what students have to say on **page 6**.

THE $5 SHAKE

We review the Diner's pricey new milkshakes and more on **page 8**.

THE SPECTATOR

Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013

Volume LIV Number 1

NSO continues to step up its game

by Charlotte Hough '14
Senior Editor

Brightly-clad Orientation Leaders dotted the top of the Hill on Aug. 24 bearing signs, screaming pop songs and dancing like no one was watching as they welcomed all 492 members of the class of 2017 to campus. Orientation had officially begun.

For the second year in a row, the Office of Residential Life ran the New Student Orientation (NSO) program, after the Student Activities Office passed the torch in 2012. According to Senior Associate Dean of Students Meredith Bonham, the change was a part of a "broad-based effort to reorganize responsibilities within the division of student affairs."

In the reorganization, Bonham—who has worked at Hamilton for almost 20 years—was reassigned to the division of student affairs and given the task of overseeing Residential Life, working on the first year experience and, in turn, helping students transitioning to Hamilton. Bonham said, "The pieces really seemed to fall into place … for Residential Life to oversee [Orientation]."

With the change in leadership two years ago came a new vision for the program. According to Assistant Dean of Students for Residential Life Travis Hill, ResLife decided to focus on recruiting a representative group of OLs that well reflected the student body. ResLife also wanted to provide first-years with thorough alcohol education.

"We seek to do this through hiring OLs that will be good role models and training them to give a well-rounded picture of the alcohol culture on campus, and how students can make healthy choices," Hill said.

Alcohol use has become a contentious issue on the Hamilton campus that culminated most recently in a report issued by the Campus Planning Committee in July. The report found that "94 percent of students feel that the atmosphere on campus encourages alcohol use and 58 percent feel pressured to drink." It also revealed that 40 percent of students at Hamilton considered it a "party school" compared with 25 percent of students at peer schools.

"The College is dry during Orientation, and we have a very strict policy that the OLs may not partake in alcohol while Orientation is happening. We approach that policy seriously and we enforce it," Bonham said, adding, "I would say we have enforced it more strictly than it has been in the past."

Third-year Resident Advisor Ashley King '14 found that she had to be stricter with her advisees this year regarding alcohol.

"I think that in the climate that our campus is in right now with the alcohol culture, we [as RAs] had to be a lot more serious than I've been in the past when I had that opening floor meeting," King said.

Orientation Leaders also make sure to talk with their first-years about drinking, while providing a realistic representation of Hamilton's social landscape.

"We make it a very important point for everyone that no matter what they choose to do, there is absolutely a place for everyone, and that this isn't a college where people are judged for how they drink, or what they drink or how much they drink," said OL Sarah Pfund '14. "And then we move on to the people that do drink and we talk about how important it is to be responsible."

Another priority of Hill's when he took the lead on Orientation was finding "intentional ways of integrating RAs into Orientation to better forge their relationships with new students going into the academic year." According to King, RAs became more involved in NSO 2012 by helping out with Color Wars—which "Hamlympics" replaced this year—as well as with the carnival. Like in past years, they also helped the new students move in on move-in day.

The RAs' role in Orientation changed slightly for this year's Orientation with the change in group activity and the addition of official "family dinners" with orientation groups, OLs and RAs. RAs remained involved in the Hamlympics, but the consolidation of this group activity into one three-hour period—as opposed to Color Wars' two sessions—gave RAs more direct interaction with students, King said.

For the first dinner of Orientation, all the RAs ate dinner with one of the Orientation groups, and for the following nights of NSO, RAs of first-year buildings ate with their advisees and those advisees' respective OLs for official "family dinners." King saw the dinners as a positive addition to Orientation.

"Family dinners were really great this year because we could meet with a group of eight new students and get to know them, plus the orientation leaders," King said, adding that it facilitated collaboration between OLs and RAs. "If the students asked a question, Orientation Leaders were more than willing to ask me, 'Oh, what's your take on this?' too."

This year's NSO also included six faculty lectures by various Hamilton professors to introduce new students to the academic side of the College. Lecturers included Winslow Professor of Classics Carl Rubino, Stephen Harper Kirner Professor of Computer Science Stu Hirshfield, Professor of Geosciences Barbara Tewksbury, Assistant Professor of History John Eldevik, Professor of Economics Steve Wu and Professor of Music Lydia Hamessley. Eugene M. Tobin Distinguished Professor of Sociology Dan Chambliss also delivered a mandatory lecture titled "Having Serious Fun in College": Educational Goals and the Benefits of a Liberal Arts Education." Orientation Coordinator Jessica Moulite '14 explained the rationale behind including lectures in Orientation.

"Although Orientation appears to be all fun and games, it's also important for students to remember that they're at Hamilton for a great education," Moulite said. "By giving them an opportunity to experience a lecture in a discipline that they may not have been familiar with, these students are given the chance to truly dive into the open curriculum at Hamilton."

Administrators and Orientation staff agreed that the lectures were a success.

"I was thrilled with how receptive the first-year students were to those lectures," said Bonham. "They were really well-attended, which is I think is great because it's a wonderful introduction to their coursework at the College."

Now that orientation has come to a close, Bonham looks forward to reading feedback from this year's first-years. She will look for ways to improve the program, which will be re-vamped as the College institutes the new First-Year Experience program.

Student Assembly Update

by Emily Moore '15
Production Editor

Discretionary Spending Account

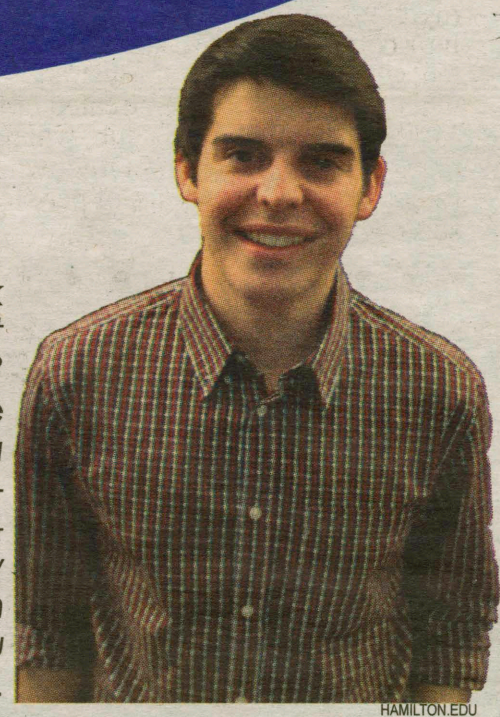
In their first meeting of the semester, Student Assembly took steps that will alter the way funding is handled. President Anthony Jackson '15 presented the idea of creating a discretionary funding account existing separately from the general fund Student Assembly manages, which would not be governed by the same funding restrictions. Student Assembly members or non-members could approach the council with ideas for initiatives that perhaps lie outside the regular funding structure. This system would ensure that money was quickly and consistently available for small events like coffee with class representatives, which is a low-cost event that requires little planning, or last year's Jackie Robinson Classic, a baseball tailgate which was organized quickly and received funding from on-campus offices, not Student Assembly. The discretionary fund would absorb monies held for certain Student Assembly expenditures, such as the awards they give out. Committees would still have to apply for funding from the general fund. Expenditures from the new discretionary fund would have to be passed by a two-thirds majority of the central council. Although initially presented as a $15,000 amount, representatives felt more comfortable with a $5,000 pilot program, to be reevaluated at the end of the semester.

Social Space Renovation

Student Assembly is also looking into making changes to social spaces on campus—specifically the Sadove and Bristol basements. Students have shown a greater demand for social spaces in recent years. Currently, Sadove's basement is an underused social space, and could use improvement. Bristol's basement is used for storage. Jackson would like to see these areas put to more use. If the storage in Bristol can be diverted to other locations (which, with the opening of the new art building, will hopefully be a possibility in the areas the art departments will vacate) it could be a viable option for renovation into a social space. Student Assembly is consulting with Physical Plant to see what can be done with Bristol. Student Assembly is seeking ideas for how Sadove basement could best serve the Hamilton community. Suggestions can be sent to sa@hamilton.edu.

Better know your rep!

Have a bone to pick on campus but don't know who to talk to? Once every month, The Spectator will profile a different Student Assembly Class Representative, so you can know who to reach when there's a change you want to see on the Hill.



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Name: Jose Vazquez, 2015 Class President
Class Year: 2015
Hometown: Miami, FL
Major: Government, with a minor in Education Studies

On-Campus Activities: Chair of Rainbow Alliance, Admissions Tour Guide, Orientation Leader, Chair of Philanthropy Committee, and Google Ambassador for Hamilton.

Biggest Irrational Fear: For some weird reason, I cringe when I see a really messed up, scraggly tooth brush. Gah, just get a new one!

My Classmates Probably Don't Know That: I wanted to travel the world riding roller coasters and still have that dream. My 8th grade was dedicated to Roller coaster Tycoon and researching coaster manufacturers.

Right Now I'm Working On: A Tour Guide project titled "Hamilton GuideOnline" where I hope to make a tour guide video that represents Hamilton in a dynamic way and gives a window for students who can't travel to Hamilton for a visit.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors, *The Spectator* will publish a selection of the Campus Safety Incident Report each week. Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* will use their discretion regarding what is published.

Thursday, August 29, 2013

12:16 a.m.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
7:13 p.m.	Larceny – Milbank Hall
11:48 p.m.	Noise Complaint – Milbank Hall
11:57 p.m.	Fire Extinguisher Discharge – Milbank Hall

Friday, August 30, 2013

12:21 a.m.	Marijuana Complaint – Bundy East Exterior
12:36 a.m.	Suspicious Incident– Babbitt Hall
9:48 p.m.	Noise Complaint – Woollcott House
10:32 p.m.	Area Check – Golf Course

Saturday, August 31, 2013

12:13 a.m.	Public Lewdness – Wellin Museum
12:46 a.m.	Marijuana Complaint – Milbank Hall Exterior
12:53 a.m.	Noise Complaint – Babbitt Hall
1:19 a.m.	Concern for Welfare – Kirner-Johnson
10:18 a.m.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
12:36 p.m.	Mechanical Issue – Commons Dining Hall
2:09 p.m.	Mechanical Issue – Sadove Student Center
9:50 p.m.	Suspicious Incident – Burke Library

Sunday, September 1, 2013

12:24 a.m.	Motor Vehicle Accident – Griffin Road
12:56 a.m.	Medical Emergency – Kirner-Johnson
9:59 a.m.	Larceny – Keehn Residence Hall

Class of 2017 Representatives

Jack Siegel

Dear Class of 2017: My name is Jack Siegel, and I wish to represent you on the Student Assembly. In high school, I represented my class on the school council, was a member of the curriculum committee, and served as chair of the judiciary committee, which reviewed administrative decisions in discipline cases when students had been treated unfairly. I also led my school's Model United Nations Club, where I honed my ability to articulate positions other than my own. I know I can communicate effectively with a variety of people, and I would be honored to serve you at Hamilton.

Ben Schafer

Would you have imagined knowing almost all of your fellow freshman in your dorm in a matter of days? Like many people I've recently met, I was amazed to find a tight-knit and congenial community immediately after arriving at Hamilton. In running for class representative, I wish to strengthen this cohesion within the Hamilton community and to improve communications among students, faculty, and administrators. I am also committed to having the freshman class heard at the Assembly (and vice versa) and to finding relevance for the Assembly in day-to-day life at Hamilton. Thanks for considering me as a potential representative!

Andrew Fischer

Fellow Class of 2017ers,

My name is Andrew Fischer, and I'm running for Class Representative!

Since we've been on campus for only three weeks, I'm not sure anyone can campaign on any specific issues – we're all still settling in.

If elected, however, I would work hard to bring the concerns, opinions, and suggestions of the class to the attention of the Student Assembly and the college. In high school, I was the Vice President of the Student Council and would very much like to represent you in student government at Hamilton.

Thanks, and I'd be honored to have your vote!

Hunter Sobczak

My name is Hunter, I'm from Denver, Colorado and I live in Wertimer. I have many achievements, including a rock band and a Disk Jockey business that I started. Most notably, I received my Eagle Scout award, conducting a three year project where I collected athletic equipment for a Boys and Girls Club in Denver's worst neighborhood.

As Class Secretary, I pledge to bring more lecturers and academics to campus, in hope of fostering a community and environment where intellectualism is encouraged. Everyone at Hamilton deserves to find the leader in themselves, and I plan to catalyze that process.

Zachary Blumenkehl

My name is Zachary Blumenkehl. I am interested in being class representative because I want to make a positive difference in the Hamilton community. With much experience in starting fundraisers for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, I plan to raise money for many charitable causes. As a former community service leader for Bridges Outreach, a non-profit organization that goes on service trips to New York City to help those in need, I gained leadership experience that I intend to utilize for the position of class representative. If elected, I will speak up for the class of 2017, and work to augment Hamilton's community service and non-profit organizations. My name is Zachary Blumenkehl. I am interested in being class representative because I want to make a positive difference in the Hamilton community. With much experience in starting fundraisers for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, I plan to raise money for many charitable causes. As a former community service leader for Bridges Outreach, a non-profit organization that goes on service trips to New York City to help those in need, I gained leadership experience that I intend to utilize for the position of class representative. If elected, I will speak up for the class of 2017, and work to augment Hamilton's community service and non-profit organizations.

Bowin Lee

Hi, I'm Bowin Lee and I have been passionate about student government throughout high school. Now that I am at Hamilton College, I feel that I should take a more forward role in participating with and giving back to the surrounding community. Specifically, I would like to create more outreach programs to the Utica veterans community who, as of now do not have the nicest facilities. In addition, I would also like to give back to the Hamilton student body by creating more on-campus events and ensuring the future success of the diner.

Bryan Ferguson

To my fellow 17'ers:

The Class of 2017 is undoubtedly a diverse group of students from all over the country and world. As a presidential candidate, I see it as my moral obligation to help you all discover the richness and potential of our community. By bolstering class community service projects, promoting student clubs, and initiating class events, I will strive to unite our class. Together, we can aspire to become a community of leaders—a class that shall certainly leave its mark. This is my promise. Vote for me as President of the Class of 2017.

Your friend,

Bryan Ferguson

Alexandru Hirsu

I have been involved in Student Assembly since my sophomore year in high school, starting as a vice president of the entire student body and as the Regional Director of Extracurricular Activities. Now, as a Hamilton student coming from Romania, I want to carry on the legacy and be part of this organization. I support cultural diversity and one of my objectives includes organizing a Quest for Culture which involves all the students in a campus-wide Scavenger Hunt. I am Alexandru Hirsu and in the words of Ricky Bobby, "If you ain't first, you're last." So, let's be first together!

Voting opens Monday, Sept. 9 at midnight and closes at 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12.

What's the deal with the Diner?

The Howard Diner, a staple of any Hamilton student's diet, underwent some unexpected changes this year. On the one hand, several new items appeared on the menu: the House-Made Pastrami Burger, the Green Chile Tortilla Burger, the Whole Diner Burger, the House-Made Chicken Cutlet, and the HD Shakes. (For reviews of these new items, see page 8.) On the other hand, these new options are not included as part of the College's Meal Plan, thus costing each student out-of-pocket dollars. Moreover, some Diner classics—such as the Black Russian and Tuscan Chicken sandwiches—are only available in exchange for a meal swipe one day per week, as "Perfect Fit" options. While a student can use his swipe for a Black Russian on a [day of the week], the sandwich would cost him $7 any other day of the week a la carte.

Unsurprisingly, the idea of paying for food at the Diner has sparked outrage among members of the student body, with numerous Diner regulars taking their protests to social media. The main charges against the higher prices are that they break from the all-inclusive nature of Diner items in years past and that the $2,655 students pay for a 21-meal plan—an expense that has increased annually—should truly pay for all meals. After all, what has changed since last year that makes a Black Russian worth more money? And why introduce tempting new dishes at the Diner if the Meal Plan doesn't even cover them?

While disgruntlement with these changes is understandable, one must keep in mind some key facts about the Howard Diner before writing their adjustments off as an injustice. The Diner, unlike any other Hamilton facility or office, has a staff that works until midnight every day of the week—and even later on the three nights of the week that Diner B is offered. Not only are the staff's hours unusually long, but their labor is intense. Traditionally, Diner meals have all been made-to-order, with the cooks taking account of specific requests from students. As basic economics teaches us, there is a higher cost to creating meals at the Diner—particularly the five new options—and, in turn, a higher price for the customer. It's doubtful that Hamilton would charge students extra at the Diner just for the sake of charging extra.

Another important consideration is the fact that Bon Appétit—not Hamilton College—manages and determines the salaries of the people who feed us here on the Hill. We suspect that Bon Appétit may have made this change to deter students from using the Diner as their primary food source on campus, which we can't blame them for if we think about the demands that the Diner employees have faced during their hectic shifts.

Still, the College could have done a better job justifying these changes to the campus community. The new Diner plan was announced through a few short emails; we received no explanation as to why these new costs were being passed on to students who had already paid for a full meal plan. A thorough explanation to the student body could go a long way towards ameliorating the ire this unexpected action has generated. Then, if students feel that Dining Services' explanation is insufficient, they can demand rollbacks to the Diner price hikes.

The Spectator **editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.**

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THE SPECTATOR

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Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. The Spectator reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

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The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. Subscriptions are $60 per year. For more information about subscriptions e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

Orientation: Is it steering the future of Hamilton in the right direction?

by Cesar Renero '17
Opinion Contributor

Though the first week at Hamilton can be hectic and scary for first-years, it does provide them with the tools to succeed on the Hill. During Orientation, new students arrange their schedules, meet some of their professors and learn about campus organizations. But did Orientation itself actually make acclimating to life at Hamilton easier? Or did it just tire the bejesus out of us right up until the first day of class?

I am a first-year who did Adirondack Adventure, so Orientation was that much more tiring. Perhaps that's exactly the point. An upperclassman told me that Orientation was meant to be tiring so first-years literally had no energy to party. That's probably true, for I was sometimes so tired that I was indecisive whether to eat dinner or have a nap, and I know this was a sentiment shared by my fellow first-years.

Perhaps they should provide balloon animals to the first-years at the lectures to liven up the affair a little bit. Balloon animals and espresso machines; that's all that is necessary to keep first-years interested in just about anything for two hours.

However, some activities were great, and helped us get to know a lot of people. Hamlympics, although mostly silly and a bit unorganized, was quite fun, especially when we got into a water-balloon fight with each other.

Or when you were walking along normally minding your own business, going to your next station, only for the serene silence to be harshly broken by a motley crew of highly energized people shouting "MARGE! MAAARGE!"

The Turf Field get-together on the first night was also a highlight of Orientation. Getting together and holding hands in a circle, with the occasional static jolt of electricity running through our hands, just seemed so eerily out of this world. Almost 500 kids together for the first time on a great esplanade made up of recycled tires and synthetic, grass-like foam. Powerful stuff.

I would like some inclusions in next year's Orientation schedule. Apart from the balloon animals and the espresso machines, I think that Administration should give freshmen more time to get to know classes. I went into my first few classes knowing very little about the class in question, and that's really not surprising considering I had chosen those classes only two days before.

PHOTO BY NANCY L. FORD

Enthusiastic Adirondack Adventure leaders welcome first-years to the Hill.

Perhaps Hamilton should also set up an Academic Browsing session after new students register for classes, so you can talk to the professors you are registered with and talk to the professors you thought about registering with but didn't for some reason. Then you could change courses before classes start and save a lot of hassle.

Oh, and a workshop in name-mnemonics would be terrific. I think I'm right in saying that every first-year has forgotten, on average, about 60 percent of the names of people they have met since arriving at Hamilton, which coincidentally is also the amount of freshmen which dozed off at least once at every Orientation lecture.

All in all, however, I very much liked Orientation.

The OLs are superbly nice people who genuinely want you to have a great start to your Hamilton career, most of the activities are fun, and even those espresso-deprived lectures are sometimes really informative; some of the speakers are absolute aces at catching your attention.

So, what grade would I give Hamilton's Orientation program? A-. Good, but there is room for improvement.

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
Mango Brie Panini Thursday: Turns out, the big line wasn't even for sandwiches, but for drip coffee served in normal-sized cups with lids.	The Diner is expensive: and we can't even panhandle to afford those extra chicken fingers 'cause the new Commons cups are too tiny to hold change.	Cram and Scram: no better feeling than getting a new couch for $2 and immediately learning that the weird kid in your history class got EMT'd on it.
Breakaway this Friday: A highly sanctioned college event in celebration of the 2004 melodic triumph by Kelly Clarkson.	There was a monsoon on Monday: In which we learned that while the student-to-teacher ratio at Hamilton is 9:1, the tree-to-student ratio is approximately 17:1.	Sophomores are feeling more confident: mainly because they finally know where Babbitt is. They will know which door is which at some point between junior year and never.
Bookstore giving out free granola bars with textbook orders: You're $530 poorer, but four grams of fiber richer.	School is in full swing: underclassmen still have hope and are earnestly prepared for class; upperclassmen are taking notes using dry highlighters and thought that a "syllabus" was a form of transportation.	Phishing Scam: Scary, mainly because someone could hack into your email and discover that you "favorite" all of the Chair Massage Tuesday emails.

by Wynn Van Dusen '15, Carrie Solomon '16 and Jessye McGarry '16

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

Obama adds voice to college rating Debate

by Patrick English '15
Opinion Editor

Watch out, U.S. News and World Report—there's a new college rating system in town and this one is coming from the U.S. government. On Tuesday, Aug. 22, President Barack Obama spoke in Buffalo, New York, proposing a new college-rating plan based on increasing affordability.

Obama's new college rating system will be based on a combination of opportunities and outcomes. It will use graduation rates, tuition, student debt rates and access for poorer students to determine which schools are giving students the best range of opportunities for their money. While most of what the President explained was vague, there were some valid points in his speech. In 2011, students owed $27,000 in loans, placing student loans second only to mortgages in consumer debt. With tuition at schools like Hamilton rising well above $40,000 per year, it is difficult for most students to afford college without loans.

The federal government currently loans more than $150 billion in financial aid based on the number of students enrolled per college. Obama seeks to alter that model and instead tie financial aid to college value, based on graduation rates, transfer rates, degrees earned and average student loan debt. After the new ratings system is created, Congress would pass new laws to divvy up financial aid to the schools that are given the highest value.

So where does Hamilton fit into this new system? Hamilton's ranking of 16th by U.S. News and World Report would certainly take a hit due to its basic tuition of $44,350, 31st highest among all colleges according to College Prowler. Hamilton's graduation rate of 84 percent (45th overall) according to U.S. News also would not help. As a result of these two important pieces, Hamilton's rating would most likely drop significantly in Obama's system.

However, no ratings system is perfect, and there are several flaws with the one proposed by the President. The most apparent flaw is its lack of specificity. While the plan does include five specific factors, there is not much basis for measuring these factors or much reasoning as to why they are more important than others. While affordability, graduation and jobs out of college are important fac-

*see **Quality**, page 9*

FACE-OFF

Spring rush strengthens Greek life

by Colin Ainsworth '17
OPNION CONTRIBUTOR

Let's be real: when you're a Jet, you're a Jet all the way.

That is not to say that members of Greek societies are simple, or that they have nothing else by which to define themselves. That is to say, however, that going Greek takes time. Most of it.

Ask any brother or sister, becoming a part of a Greek society is a serious, time-consuming commitment. Hours will be taken out of days, thoughts will be frenzied and actions will be obligated.

It will not necessarily be easy and not everything will be enjoyable, but all of it is done in order to prove your extended loyalty to a new group, a loyalty that will be unquestionably returned to you. It is an arduous process. That is why they call it pledging.

Now take that process and throw it on top of an 18-year-old who has just arrived at a new place where he or she lives with new people, eats new food, has new responsibilities and is learning new things every single day. This is the guaranteed life of a first-year.

However, there are also the cases of first-year athletes who have to deal with the aforementioned stresses, as well as becoming acquainted with a new team, a new coach, a new system and new athletic challenges.

Or take the life of a first-year fine arts concentrator, one filled with auditions and critiques, and that is just the beginning.

While it is not only believable, but likely, that a first-year could handle all of his or her responsibilities, plus the responsibilities of a Greek society, that does not mean added stress is preferable. Giving first-years a year to become acquainted with themselves and with campus life is more of a favor than a disservice.

The administration is also essentially doing the Greek societies a favor, as well. Bear with me here and think about Vanderbilt University.

While an incredible educational institution, Vandy also manages to have some of the most stereotypical, most loyal and most dominant Greek life of any college and university in the United States. With that said, one would expect Vanderbilt's rush to start at the standard time of first-year fall, but it doesn't. It starts in the spring.

This essentially gives fraternities an entire semester of what can be thought of as "pre-rush." Those who are unsure of their interest can test it out once, and then never again.

The fraternities and sororities can gain actual relationships with possible brothers and sisters rather than make quick judgments. Meanwhile, frats and sororities get to spend the first half of their year becoming acquainted as well.

Isn't Hamilton giving a year for this process doing the exact same thing, only better?

HAMILTON.EDU

The recent pledging decisions add to a variety of changes in Greek life over the last 20 years, such as Greek houses becoming part of Residential Life.

Greek life enriches first-year experience

by Elizabeth Rodriguez '15
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

For the first time in decades, zombies will not be walking around campus this year. No, I'm not talking about the end of our beloved Humans vs. Zombies game; I'm talking about pledges. I am sure you remember hearing about the great debate on the decision to postpone pledging for Greek societies until sophomore fall. Perhaps you followed the decision making process like you would a boxing match. That's certainly what it felt like as students began firing away emails and Greek members started speaking up at Student Assembly meetings. While a lot of opinions were, we are living with the changes now and I'm still not a fan of the new system.

Let's be real, because I am in a sorority, this time last year I was "girl flirting" with almost every first-year. Because pledging was only a semester away, I really wanted to get to know the girls who would be interested in joining my sorority. I remember being completely energized by my conversations and excited about the little nuances of Hamilton only a first-year would point out.

I am saddened by the fact that I can't say I have had many conversations with first-year students this year. For myself, and a large majority of the student population, relationships that form between upperclassmen and first-years are initiated through rush events. Unfortunately, I don't see these relationships forming as readily as they did last year.

Due to the lack of rushing by Greek societies, the rift between first-years and upperclassmen is widening. I understand strengthening bonds within a class is important; however, relationships among classes are the basis of college life. The relationships are also reciprocal. First-years develop natural "mentors" while upperclassmen, like myself, are enlivened by first-years.

I understand the argument that time should be allotted for first-years to chart their own path, unguided by social pressures to join or not join Greek life. However, if this logic were applied equally among all student organizations, well, let's just say your inbox would probably be empty. Emails and interest meetings soliciting student organizations bombard first-years from the second the Chapel bell rings.

With the new changes, Greek societies are the only student organizations that are not allowed to solicit (also known as "rush") their organization in the fall. They are also the only organizations whose recruitment process is hindered by the College.

The recruitment process is restricted by the College because of the major cost potential members face: pledging their sophomore year. Just as Hamilton students are determined and ambitious, they are prudent. The thought of having to declare a major, assume more responsibility in student groups, start seriously applying for internships and undergo pledging would have most students running for the Glen. This is completely understandable.

Pledging is difficult and time-consuming. I did not use the word "zombie" in the beginning of this article carelessly. Despite this, pledging is unbelievably rewarding in the short and long term. It teaches interpersonal skills that could never be replicated in a classroom.

I do not wish to undermine pledging by acknowledging its challenging nature. It must also be noted, while pledging is a difficult and challenging process, horrifying pledging stories hardly resemble Hamilton pledging at all. I am making the risky claim because it is a fact that must be accepted in order to understand why the timing is so important. When fully acknowledging the difficulty of the pledging process, the idea of moving pledging to a more rigorous academic year becomes completely counterintuitive.

Pledging should not be coupled with upper-level classes and important decisions, such as declaring a major. Pledging should remain a staple of first-year spring when students are still focused on forming social groups and gaining positions in organizations. Simply put, postponing pledging to sophomore year is postponing full academic concentration.

> **"Greek societies not only connect Jans to a larger group of students but also help them assimilate to campus life as an equal."**

It would be remiss if I did not address the influence of pledging on January admitted students, whom I will lovingly refer to as "Jans." A presumed drawback of pledging during first-year spring for a Jan is the short amount of time they would have to Rush and decide on joining Greek life before pledging begins. After all, Jans may already be stressed with the task of joining other groups. I certainly sympathize with my Jan friends. Arriving to a campus where the majority of student groups are already formed must be a daunting task. However, among all the pre-formed groups on campus there remains one exception. Greek societies are the only organizations that have not yet accepted first-year members. In fact, societies leave spots specifically for Jans. Greek organizations therefore welcome Jans entirely, allowing them the same standing as other potential members.

Greek societies not only connect Jans to a larger group of students but also help them assimilate to campus life as an equal, not a "new member." Some may still fear that Jans will be funneled into Greek societies or limited in their choosing of extracurricular activities. I can only hope these individuals will see Jans as strong-willed and intelligent decision makers. Jans will test the waters, join groups, make friends, and begin their merry Hamilton journey. Greek societies simply serve as an open and fair option for Jans. Despite the fact that Jans are first-years and may carry a tray in Commons, they can make their own decisions concerning which groups to join.

For the sake of Greek life at Hamilton, I hope either the decision is reconsidered or I am wrong in my predictions. I fully believe Greek societies reap priceless benefits and I hope future students are not deterred by pledging changes.

Quality trumps affordability

from ***Obama,*** *page 5*

tors, they are certainly not the only things that make up an education. At liberal arts colleges like Hamilton, the values of small classes and high-quality professors outweigh the problems with affordability. For this reason, thousands of students apply to Hamilton every year, seeing the education as priceless and worrying about the high cost later on.

While high tuition rates certainly should be addressed, they are not a valid system for ranking colleges on their own. The quality of education at a school usually has little to do with its cost, and schools are becoming increasingly need-blind. Since several Ivy League and NESCAC schools can pay tuition for any student accepted, families do not need to worry about the high tuition rates. They can rest assured that they will be able to pay for college, regardless of their financial situation.

If and when Congress passes a college-rating system and laws to divide up college grants, it will not be perfect. However, the rating systems currently used are not perfect themselves. It is best for families and students to look at all the information available and find the college that best suits them.

Letter to the Editor

August 2012—I visited Hamilton for the first weekend of the year, right before I went abroad. As always, the a cappella groups joined forces for a collective performance to welcome the first-years and jumpstart the semester.

If you've seen The Buffers perform, you know the drill: Every member sings, "If I was not a Buffer, I wonder what I'd be. If it was not a Buffer, ____ I would be," respectively filling in the blank. Like most Buffer skits, it's supposed to be funny.

This time—and whether or not this was the debut of the joke, I can't say—one of the members sang, "If I was not a Buffer, I wonder what I'd be. If it was not a Buffer, abortion I would be." He then twisted a metal coat hanger above his head, posing as some sort of abortion alien.

Get it? I didn't either. The "joke"—big shocker here—didn't get many laughs; in fact, it didn't get any. The twisted tune was stuck in my mind for the rest of my visit. I felt upset and embarrassed that for the first-years attending this performance, this was one of their initial impressions of our community—which we advertise as a respectful and educated place. I left the country two days later, hoping that someone who was staying on the Hill would address the incident. How, I figured, could someone *not* address it?

Fast-forward one year: August 28, 2013, one of my suitemates comes back to our room after attending the a cappella concert and remarks that The Buffers made a "really not-funny joke" at the show.

"If I was not a Buffer, I wonder what I'd be If it was not a Buffer, abortion I would be." And once again, the singer (a different one, perhaps) held a coat hanger above his head and pretended, playfully, to be "from Planet Abort."

This has happened at the past two start-of-the-year a cappella performances, and I'd say it's a pretty safe bet that the joke was used more than once between August 2012 and this past week. So let's talk about "Planet Abort," the place that The Buffers think is so funny that they can't give the joke a rest.

In the time leading up to *Roe v. Wade* (1973), an estimated 1.2 million illegal abortions occurred every year. These were not safe procedures. They did not occur in a hospital. They were not performed with professional medical supervision or equipment.

Hence the metal coat hanger. In addition to this infamous instrument, women also used darning needles, crochet hooks, and soda bottles to attempt illegal abortions.

Hilarious, right? Women trapped in a common situation, scared out of their minds with no safe resources, so desperate to avoid a future they're not prepared for that they use the nearest household item to try to save themselves.

The women who received or performed illegal abortions suffered permanent physical and emotional damage. The women who received or performed illegal abortions died.

Illegal abortions are not a joke.

Assuming that at least one Buffer is reading this, let me ask you a question: Do you know at least three women? (You must, right, since part of your audition process is mandating that freshman girls be hoarded to the all-male tryouts.)

One in three American women will have an abortion by age 45. In other words: There's a good chance that a woman you know, a woman you care about, maybe even a woman you get pregnant will be confronted with the painful decision to end a pregnancy.

Because *Roe v. Wade* is still in place, this woman will not have to seek out an untrained, unsafe practitioner, or attempt an abortion herself. She will not have to visit "Planet Abort," take a coat hanger, shove it up her cervix, maim her body and potentially end her life. As someone who is pro-choice, I think this is something to be grateful for. At the very least, however, it is not something to mock and make fun of.

The Buffers is the oldest a cappella group at Hamilton and, apparently, the most out-of-touch. It's inexcusable and unacceptable that these men make a joke like this at a public performance—multiple times—and still saunter around in their "classy" sports jackets as if they adequately represent this community.

—Emma Laperruque '14

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We try every new item at the Diner

by Emma Laperruque '14
Managing editor

"The $5 Shake" originated as a quip in Quentin Taratino's *Pulp Fiction*, but now the Howard Diner seems to be taking the joke seriously. If you haven't heard the latest "B.A. Buzz," here's the news: the Diner has dramatically pared down on its fans' favorite menu items, such as the Black Russian, Tuscan Chicken and Panini alla Napoletana, which are now only available a la carte or on respective days of the week. But while everyone else wailed in agony over the fact that Black Russians are now only available on Tuesdays—why oh why, why, why, why—another concern occupied my mind: If the Diner is offering "$5 Shakes"—or, as the menu calls them, 'HD Shakes"—are they worth it? If the Diner is increasing their prices, are they also upping their game?

To the initial dismay and eventual amusement of the too-good-for-words Diner employees, I ordered and tasted every new item on the Diner menu—with the help of Opus's most charming employee. This way you know what's worth your money, and what's not.

PHOTO BY SEAN D. HENRY-SMITH '15

The Howard Diner's revamped menu includes six milkshake varieties and a number of new burgers.

House-made Pastrami Burger
($8 or 1 meal swipe + $3): 3/5

Made with a third-pound local beef burger, house-made pastrami, Swiss cheese, and caramelized onions—this sandwich takes itself very seriously. The Heidelberg sourdough bread is so tangy, buttery, crispy and wonderfully oversized that its edges barely fit on the paper plate. No offense to the Black Russian devotees, but I think this option is a nice break from the thick-cut white. The main problem is that the sourdough is too large for the burger, and the pastrami—albeit house-made—is too timidly layered on.

PHOTO BY SEAN D. HENRY-SMITH '15

Green Chile Tortilla Burger
($7 or 1 meal swipe + $2): 5/5

Had I not already ordered three other sandwiches and six milkshakes, I would have eaten two of these. Like the Pastrami Burger, it's made with a third-pound local beef patty, plus house-made green chile relish, and Monterey jack cheese. Thinking outside the bun, the cooks wrap the sandwich in a flour tortilla and grill it on the flat-top. This makes the item take a bit longer in the assembly line, but I liked the extra care, and the extra crunch. The green chile relish is refreshingly not-classic-Americana-diner, and it offers a bit of the spice that I'm always craving when I douse everything from the dining halls in hot sauce. So, is it worth the extra $2? Absolutely.

PHOTO BY EMMA LAPERRUQUE '14

The Whole Diner Burger
($8 or 1 meal swipe + $3): 4/5

Embarrassing to admit, but I really, really enjoyed this—and I would have even more had I been, ahem, drinking something other than milkshakes. (Read: This is your new 'Diner B' order.) Scaring away all Opus-followers in sight, this sandwich manages to feature meat from three different animals on one little bun, with a beef burger, two chicken tenders and crispy bacon. Oh, and French fries, too. Plus a generous zig-zag of honey mustard, because it really does make everything better. For an extra $2, you can add another burger, which I can see more than a few people doing in the wee hours of Sunday morning when the 'drunchies' roll around. I see this as the Diner's most mischievous business strategy, and I think it's going to work.

PHOTO BY SEAN D. HENRY-SMITH '15

House-made Chicken Cutlet Sandwich
($7 or 1 meal swipe + $2): 3/5

It's a chicken cutlet sandwich: no less, no more. While the other new sandwich items on The Diner menu are decidedly showing off for their price tags, this was the one that made me shrug my shoulders. The chicken breast is crispy. The garlic mayonnaise is garlicky. The cheese is melty. The bun is soft. The tomato and lettuce are fresh. If you're really in the mood for a chicken cutlet sandwich: Go for it. You won't be disappointed, but I'm not sure if you'll be blown away.

PHOTO BY EMMA LAPERRUQUE '14

Nutella Shake *($5): 5/5*

I'm biased: I'll admit it right now. Nutella Milkshakes were one of the greatest discoveries of my four-month abroad experience and, to be totally honest, if I could pick a 'way to go,' it would be drowning in one of those giant vats of Nutella. This milkshake does exactly what it's supposed to: not skimp on the godly chocolate-hazelnut spread. It's so Nutella-y that sometimes I felt like I was just drinking Nutella, and I loved it. The days when you could trade your dinner swipe for a pint of Ben & Jerry's may be—rest in peace—gone, but this is a worthy replacement, even it costs you some cash.

Coffee Shake *($5): 4/5*

Like the Nutella, this shake represents its flavor namesake very well—and I think it's worth mentioning that my co-taste tester, Sean Henry-Smith '15, gave his barista seal of approval. The coffee was pronounced, but not overwhelming, as was the sweetness. For those who don't pray to the Nutella God, this is the shake to choose. And if you're on the seven- or 14-meal plan, maybe spend your designated breakfast budget on this once or twice a week. It does have coffee, after all.

Chocolate Shake *($5): 3/5*

A chocolate milkshake, at its most basic, is chocolate ice cream blended with milk. A black and white milkshake, on the other hand, is vanilla ice cream blended with chocolate syrup and milk. To me, this shake tasted like the latter—and it turned out, after a bit of sleuthing, that's exactly what it is. I love black and white milkshakes and, for those who do, too, this is a choice example. But if you're looking for chocolate, I'd recommend opting for an Opus cookie instead.

Blueberry Shake *($5): 1/5*

Who would order this? I understand that people generally fall into fruity or not-fruity milkshake camps, and I—can you tell?—definitely lean toward the latter. But still, something about a "Blueberry Milkshake," from the moment I saw it on the menu, made me furrow my eyebrows. At my first reluctant sip, I was excited to learn that the blueberry flavor was subtle to the point of barely being there—and then I processed that the blueberry flavor was subtle to the point of barely being there. And if you are one of those people who would actually order a blueberry milkshake in the first place, this probably isn't what you want.

Strawberry Shake *($5): 3/5*

If you're a fruity milkshake person, this is your order. If you're a strawberry ice cream fan, this is definitely your order. Just request that they make it extra thick, because, to me, this consistency was verging upon strawberry milk, even though the flavor was spot-on.

Vanilla Shake *($5): 4/5*

Food pet peeve: When people get shamed for ordering vanilla milkshakes because they're the "boring" choice. You know, as if liking vanilla ice cream makes you a "vanilla" personality. But seriously, to all the vanilla folks out there: Forget that. I don't think you're boring. I think you're classic and comforting on a warm, sunny day. This shake is made with vanilla ice cream and vanilla extract, and the result is just the right balance between milky and creamy. While the vanilla flavor is present, it's in no way artificial or overpowering.

Bachelor and Bachelorette

Nick Pappageorge '14

COURTESY OF NICK PAPPAGEORGE '14

Hometown: *Wilmette, Illinois.*
Home on Campus: *South.*
Major: *Public Policy and Creative Writing.*
Turn On? *Indie cred.*
Turn Off? *Lack of ambition or music taste.*
If you were a dorm, which would you be and why? *South: older than the rest but still in its prime.*
Lights on or lights off? *Lights on.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Kanye West and Thom Yorke: the voices of our generation. I can lay down a verse and croon.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"Melts in your mouth, not in your hands"—M&Ms*
What TV genre best describes you? *VICE documentaries.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *"Can I buy you a drink or do you just want the money?"*
What's your type? *Sloane Peterson from* Ferris Bueller's Day Off.
What are three things you cannot live without? *Proper headphones, whiskey and nostalgia.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *My room. Or on a run.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Challah for Hunger. I'm in it for the dough.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *I would order a panini on Thursday... with an open container.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *R. Kelly's new remix "U.O.E.N.O." He maintains the integrity of the original, while introducing a layer of sound that is uniquely his own.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *The menu changes at the Howard Diner. Also, my haters.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *That dark side princess with the nose ring.*
What would your perfect date be? *Diner B.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *Frozen Jimmy Dean croissanwiches.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Not using the trays in Commons. It's so much easier.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *An avocado: a neccessary ingredient for the fiesta.*

Hailey Hayman '14

COURTESY OF HAILEY HAYMAN '14

Hometown: *Belvedere, California.*
Home on Campus: *Across the street from Subway behind a barber shop.*
Major: *Biology and Art.*
Turn On? *Unabashedly dancing.*
Turn Off? *Fake tans.*
If you were a dorm, which would you be and why? *Kirkland: named after the dark side, hanging out in the middle of the light side.*
Lights on or lights off? *Lights off. Glow sticks on.*
If you had to describe yourself as the lovechild of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Schuyler Fisk and Travis Barker—laid back wearing cowboy boots with dresses and likes drumming.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"Ohhh yeah!"—Kool-Aid*
What TV genre best describes you? *Mockumentary Sitcom (*The Office *meets* New Girl*).*
What's your type? *John Krasinki in anything.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Onions, spell check and my retainer.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *Bristol Hub with a toga party.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *Glen House hammocks.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Ping Pong.*
What's your spirit animal? *Jennifer Lawrence according to Buzzfeed.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *I've gotten away with all the stuff I've wanted to do...*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Yonanas machines.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Mosquitos.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *John McBratney in a morph suit.*
What would your perfect date be? *Being taken to the opera.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *An infographic on cheese (I'm lactose intolerant).*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Using paper cups and plastic spoons in Commons.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Eggplant: pretty purple, silly shaped, strong outside, squishy inside, goes great with all the other veggies, breads and cheeses.*

Livingston explores musical improvisation with Emerson Foundation grant

Nathan Livingston '14 channels emotions in an energy-filled performance.

by Lucas Phillips '16
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

"We write the story of our own lives as it happens, just feel it and go," Nathan Livingston '14 explained mid-song during his performance in the Chapel on Monday. The performance, entitled "Song Silhouettes," represented the culmination of Livingston's Emerson Foundation project and explored the power of improvisation through the raw energy of live performance.

Livingston began the performance outside the Chapel, playing some of his original works on bagpipes. Though instrumentally and stylistically unrelated to the rest of the performance, Livingston's playing set forth something of an ideological base for the concert. The drones of the bagpipe echoed the core of emotion that Livingston sought to expose in the show.

The title of the performance reflects Livingston's songwriting philosophy. He explains that in music, people see "a silhouette of emotion."

Livingston believes that emotional intensity is best achieved through a degree of improvisation. According to Livingston, "whenever I write a song, I am improvising." He believes, furthermore, that his music "manifests most powerfully when there's an audience."

Livingston's philosophy was more than evident in his performance. He strolled through the crowd, kicked over a chair, stood up and sat back down and let the energy of both his music and the audience move him. Livingston explained that he views the transformation he undergoes as a performer as the accessing of a "pure form" of himself.

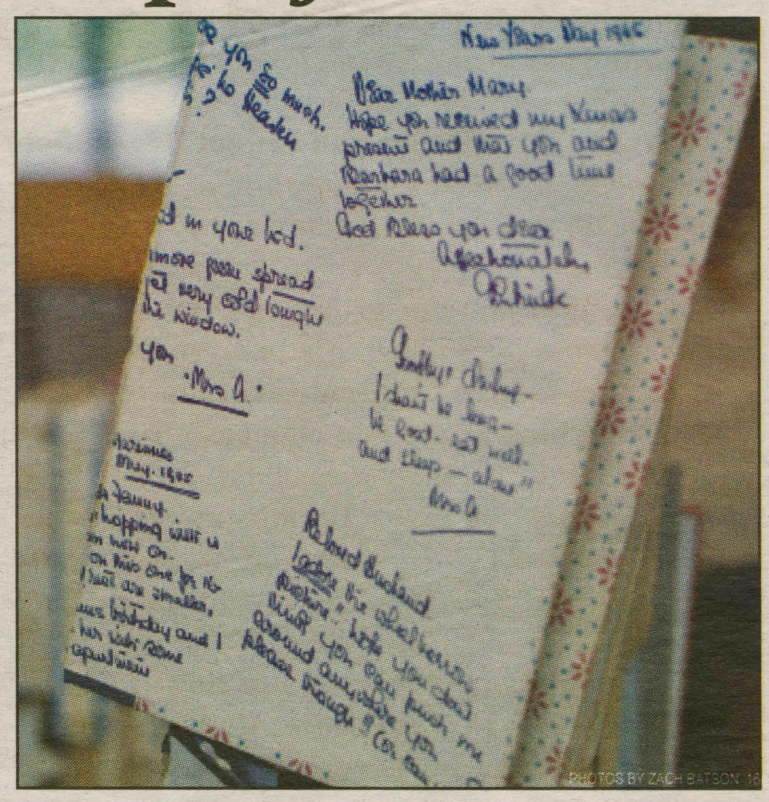
In the spirit of improvisation, Livingston did not stick to a setlist. Inspired by the heavy rain that preceeded the performance and the strong role that rain plays in his lyrics, Livingston spontaneously performed one of his earliest songs, which he wrote in eighth grade. He estimated after the show that 20 percent of his lyrics were improvised during the performance.

Livingston credited Bruce Springsteen as one of his great influences. He clearly draws from Springsteen's energy and follows elements of Springsteen's vocal delivery: alternatively low and gravelly--tinged with regret--and sonorous and full.

Livingston's songwriting, is, however, greatly unlike Springsteen's. Springsteen, to use an analogy, is a novelist while Livingston--as his poetry-specialized creative writing major would confirm--is more of a poet. Instead of creating characters and absorbing the qualities of places as Springsteen does, Livingston prefers to convey his message through understated, often ambiguous lyrics. He is more interested in exploring the self than Springsteen,
and this imbued his performance with a very personal quality.

Livingston spoke of a collective experience in his performance, however, noting that every audience member contributed to the atmosphere and the sound itself. "Every ear," he said, "is an instrument."

Perez '14 combines creative writing, sculpture in Emerson project



Above, Deanna Perez '14 explains the inspiration and motivation behind her project, "The Life of a Book: From the Bindery to the Pedestal."

by Edie Wilson '14
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CONTRIBUTOR

Deanna Perez '14 proved in her sculpture exhibition on Monday that books tell more than the stories recorded in their pages. She spent the summer working on an Emerson Foundation project titled "The Life of a Book: From the Bindery to the Pedestal." In her finished compilation of sculptures, Perez portrayed both the birth and death of books in two art pieces made up of old Hamilton College and Utica Library books.

The first piece, "Woven Words," is made up of intertwined thread and pages cut from books. The lines start as strands close to the ground, and become enmeshed with one another into a web of ideas toward the ceiling. In her artist statement, Perez describes this part of the project: "Taken back to its primitive form. The early life of a book. When its words were just beginning to form lines."

In the second part of the project, "Eleanor & Franklin," Perez illustrates the end of a book with several books unbounded and pieced together with their pages slightly open. Perez hopes that the open position of the books liberates the books that have been stuck closed on crowded library bookshelves. Some of the books display handwritten messages, while others simply show the wear and tear from being held by countless hands over the years.

Perez continues to be driven by such unique projects.

"My joint interest in creative writing and sculpture always drives me to explore the conceptual ideas surrounding words, imagery and visual experiences," she said.

This year, Perez plans to continue working with her advisor, Professor Rebecca Murtaugh, on a senior project focused in sculpture.

'Merry Wives' brings guffaws to the Glen

by Xenia Tiajoloff '16
Arts & Entertainment Contributor

PHOTO BY LAUREN LANZOTTI '14

Claire Barton '14 and Katherine Delesalle '14 exchange playful banter during *The Merry Wives of Windsor* production in the Glen this past weekend.

William Shakespeare often found enlightened settings in wooded areas for many of his farces. Thus it was fitting to witness Hamilton College's rendition of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in the outdoors.

The set was enticing. Strewn carefully were various articles of women's clothing — a quiet but clever nod to the unavoidable presence disguise and dirty laundry have in the plot.

This minimalist set was enhanced by the utilization of the encompassing area around the audience. Planted pines were used as stage wings, while the gravel road leading to the cemetery served as a location for transition scenes and a place for the drunken, thieving, singing minstrels (Dewi Caswell '14, Gabe Mollica '14, Kerkira Stockton '14 and John Boudreau '14) to play. In other words, the audience was no longer simply watching the play; they were right in the middle of it.

A little known play written for Queen Elizabeth I of England as a result of her favoritism for the ridiculous, jovial and lustful character of Sir John Falstaff (Tommy Moriarty '14), this all student production led by Lauren Lanzotti exuded effortless humor and the kind of wonder that one always associates with the famous bard. Shakespeare, forever a fan of dirty witticisms and innuendoes, riddled this play with these sublimely subtle jokes—befitting a farce about star—crossed lovers, a jealous to a lack of reason husband and a fat old knight so short on money he believes his only option is to make unfaithful lovers of two wealthy women.

Memorized, staged and performed in the course of six days, this truly was a wonderful exercise of the quick learned talent of the Hamilton community!

Sometimes it is easy to forget that on the Hill that we have a number of talented actors even outisde the theatre department. These students, from a range of disciplines and with remarkably limited amount of rehearsal time, skillfully tapped into feelings of madness, vengeance, or drunken stupidity.

The production was a success. Whether one focused on the brilliant main characters who drove the plot, turned his attention to the promiscuous activities of the bar maid or watched as the flamboyant French Doctor Caius (Evan Warnock '14) and Slender (Jack Coughlin '15) both married incorrectly, one was never left without entertainment.

'Case Histories' continues to impress viewers

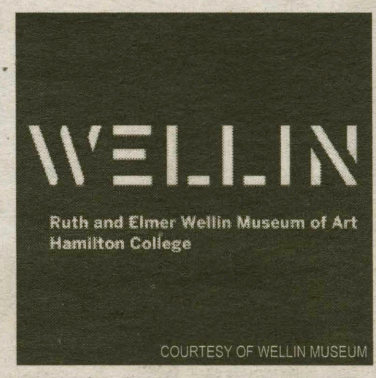
by Edie Wilson '14
Arts & Entertainment Contributor

This fall, Wellin Museum continues to play host to its inaugural exhibition, "Case Histories." The exhibit displays artifacts from all around the world in chronological order. Susanna White, the curator of the exhibit, explained, "['Case Histories'] was inspired by the Common Reading, *Evocative Objects* by Sherry Turkle and the museum's own mission to be a place of interdisciplinary object-based learning."

When talking about why "Case Histories" was chosen as the museum's first exhibition, White said, "I wanted to do an exhibition that highlighted the eclectic collection we have and demonstrate how faculty and students in all disciplines can use the collection for teaching and study purposes."

By observing "Case Histories," one can learn about the story of each object. "Objects can reveal stories about their makers, the place and time of their origin, how and why they were preserved and what role they may have played in history. It all begins with stopping and looking carefully at objects and unraveling visual clues," White described.

The exhibit does just that by displaying all sorts of artifacts and artwork ranging from watercolor paintings to seed communities. There is something relevant to every discipline of study at Hamilton. Faculty and students were involved in the creation of the exhibition; many of the descriptions for pieces in Wellin Museum were written by members of the Hamilton community.

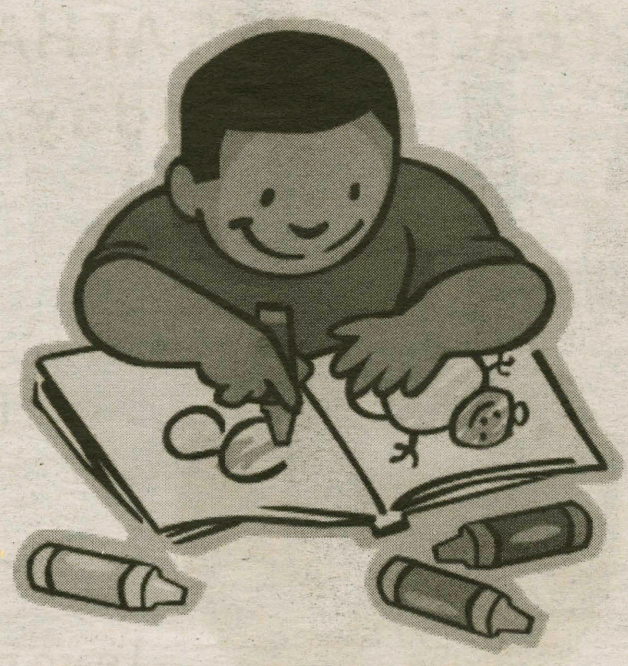


White said it was not difficult incorporating so many Hamilton faculty and disciplines into the exhibition. "It was really just a matter of asking—everyone was very supportive and I was engaged in conversations with a number of faculty about how they would be using the collection for teaching."

White pointed out, "A completely different history could be told by another group using the same objects."

The Hamilton history found in Case Histories has received a positive response thus far. "People have been surprised by the range of work that is in our collection," White said.

Interested in contributing to *The Spec*?



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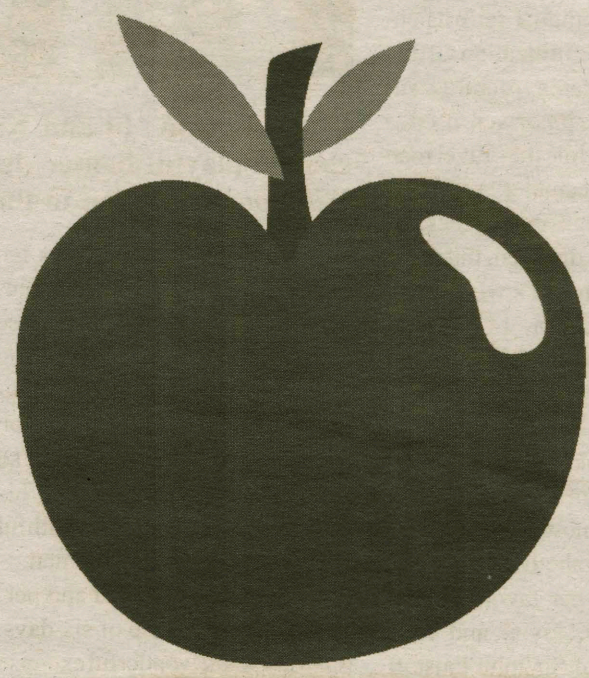
FYI:
The Cider Mill opens this Thursday, Sept. 5, for the fall season!



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PEACE CORPS AT HAMILTON COLLEGE
Tuesday, September 10

INFORMATION TABLE
10:00 a.m.
Beinecke

INFORMATION SESSION
12:00 p.m.
Sadove Conference Room
Room 112

Learn more from Hamilton College Recruiter Douglas Miller
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Off The Hill Challenge

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Soccer has high hopes

from Soccer, page 16

discourages an overreliance on a single star. The Conts play an unorthodox 4-5-1 formation, one that makes the midfielders the fulcrum of the offense. If the collective midfield unit can fill the scoring vacuum, that would be a critical step towards securing a possible NCAA tournament bid.

"Our common goal as a team is to make it to the NCAA tournament," starting goalkeeper Liza Gergenti '14 said. "To look back in however many years when I come to Alumni Weekend and talk about my experience playing at Hamilton I want to be able to be able to say that the [four seniors] not only started off our freshmen year with a NCAA berth, but that we never lost focus through the years and ended up in that same place again as seniors. To start and end our careers with an NCAA appearance would be the greatest thing that could happen."

As both programs have shown, tough breaks like a strenuous schedule or a superstar graduating can delay a team's climb to the top. However, if each team is able to strike the right balance between maintaining determination and consistency of play, there is no telling where their seasons will lead.

Football aims to gain stronger footing

by Kaitlin McCabe '16
News Editor

For Head Football Coach Andrew Cohen, strengthening an entire football team is not a feat that can be rushed into; rather it is a step-by-step process that requires tackling one particular play at a time. The second-year head coach is optimistic going forward into Hamilton's 2013 season, stating, "This year, our immediate goal is to get better every day."

Despite finishing with a 1-7 record in the NESCAC sports league last year, Hamilton scored a total of 165 points, the highest offensive output for the Continentals since the 1992 season. "I was happy with our improvements as a team. We are excited to show much improvement this upcoming season," Cohen said. The Continentals enter the season, however, without some valuable players who graduated, including linebacker Mike MacDonald '13 and quarterback Jordan Eck '13. Both athletes were four-year starters. MacDonald is one of two players in Hamilton's football history with more than 300 tackles in his career, and Eck impressively placed third on the Continentals' all-time passing yards list with 4,948.

This year marks Hamilton's 121st season football season and its 116th using Steuben Field. The roster includes 33 players new to the team as well as seven returning starters on both the offensive and defensive sides, including team captains James Stanell '14, Andrew Austin '13, Darren Fuller '13 and Andrew Madigan '13. Stanell, a running back, and Joe Jensen '15, a wide receiver, were both recognized as Division III preseason All-Americans by the USA Football Network this summer. Stanell previously received 2012 NESCAC All-Conference first team honors after heading the conference in all-purpose yards per game and ranking second with 94.5 rushing yards per game. Additionally, his 1,560 all-purpose yards during last year's season is the second-highest total in NESCAC history. Jensen finished third in the conference with 56.8 receiving yards per game.

Coach Cohen appreciates the way his players find a balance between their academic and athletic careers. He commented, "We are very excited about our young group of student athletes. We are a group of high character guys who work very hard in the classroom and as football players. We are very proud of the leadership of this team and our seniors have led the way."

The season opens on Steuben Field against Amherst College on Sept. 21. The Lord Jeffery's finished in third place in the conference last year with a record of 6-2. Wesleyan University will also come to Hamilton on Sept. 28 for Fallcoming Weekend. There will be two other home games this season, against Colby College (Oct. 19) and Bates College (Nov. 9).

"Thus far, the strength of our team is how hard we play," Cohen said. "We are playing together and we are a cohesive team and all the members are buying in to the program. We came back in great physical condition and we are a much faster team."

This weekend, the Continentals plan to demonstrate that improvement in a scrimmage against Cornell University. Despite the loss of several star players who graduated last year, the combination of returning seasoned starters and the arrival of energized new athletes is sure to make for a promising start.

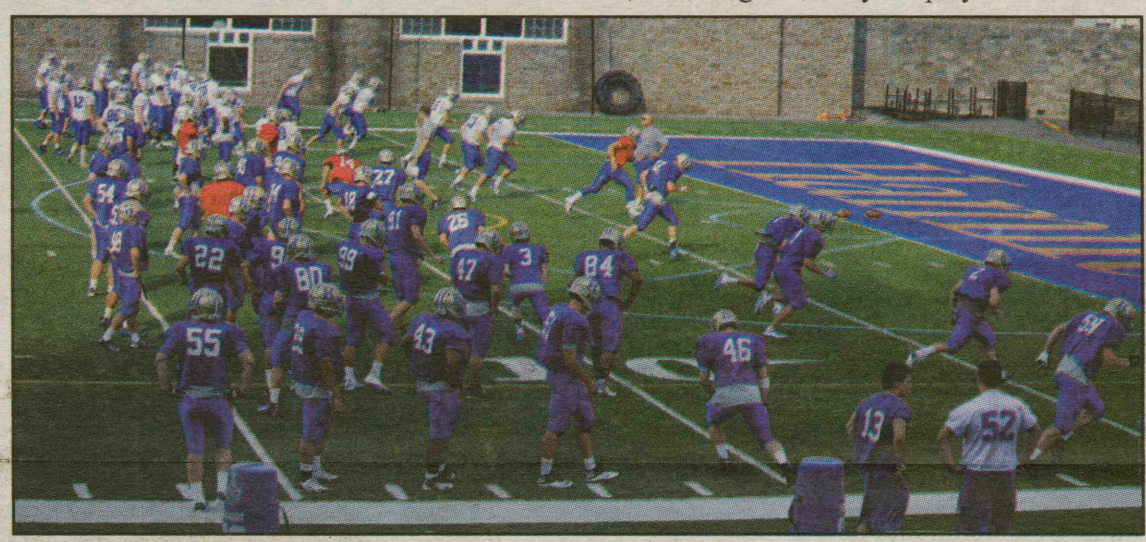


PHOTO BY ELIZABETH COMATOS '15

The football team practices on Steuben Field in preparation for the start of the season.

HAMILTON SPORTS FALL SCHEDULE

FOOTBALL
2012 Record: 1-7
Next Game: Sept. 21 vs. Amherst

MEN'S SOCCER
2012 Record: 4-8-2
Last Result: Win vs. SUNY Oswego
Next Game: Sept. 7 @ Trinity

MEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY
Upcoming Races:
Sept. 14: Hamilton Short Course Invite
Sept. 20: Rensselaer Invite

VOLLEYBALL
2012 Record: 11-16
Next Games: Sept. 6 @ University of Rochester Invite

WOMEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY
Upcoming Races:
Sept. 14: Hamilton Short Course Invite
Sept. 20: Rensselaer Invite

MEN'S GOLF
Upcoming Tournaments:
Sept 7-8: Skidmore's Tim Brown Invite
Sept. 14-15 Middlebury's Duke Nelson Invite

WOMEN'S GOLF
Upcoming Tournaments:
Sept. 7-8: St. Lawrence Invite
Sept. 21-22: Mount Holyoke Invite

WOMEN'S SOCCER
2012 Record: 9-5-1
Last Result: Win vs. SUNY Oswego
Next Game: Sept. 7 @ Trinity

FIELD HOCKEY
2012 Record: 0-14
Next Game: Sept. 7 @ Trinity

H SPECTATOR SPORTS
September 5, 2013

Soccer looks to field past setbacks this season

by Sterling Xie '16
Sports Writer

As a team enters a new season, the loss of graduated leaders, and the lethargy of summer vacation often puts a damper on morale.

However, the Hamilton men's and women's soccer teams are looking to stay positive and are optimistic about their seasons. While both programs face difficulties going into the 2013 season, they plan to use the need to overcome these challenges as motivation for success.

The men's program enters its third season in the NESCAC seeking its first conference playoff appearance. The Continentals have excruciatingly finished one point out of the postseason the last two years, a byproduct of some poor injury luck and a plethora of one-goal losses–five in 2012 alone. Head Coach Perry Nizzi thinks that last season's losses were a direct result of these very issues.

"I think a lot of the so-called bad luck was not just bad luck on the field [...] last year, because of our injuries, we really were the tired team at the end of games," said Nizzi about his team's subpar record in close games. "When you're losing four to six starters, you're dipping into the group of subs that maybe wouldn't have even played that game."

Simple scheduling quirks had a colossal effect on Hamilton's 2012 season. Last year, only once did the wearied Conts have more than two days of rest between games. This season, they will enjoy eight stretches of at least three days rest and face just one back-to-back game. Team captain Leo Nizzi '14 thinks that rest will help the team play up to its potential.

> **"We have a very capable team, and our potential exceeds any I have seen in many years of being at Hamilton."**
> *—Leo Nizzi '14*

"Seeing as we have had just over one week of practice and our first game is on Wednesday the fourth, we have had to accomplish a lot in a small allotted amount of time," noted Nizzi. "I feel as though we have a very capable team, and our potential exceeds any I have seen in many years of being at Hamilton. However, in a league as competitive as the NESCAC, it is important for every player to step up his play and reach the pinnacle of their game."

If the Conts are to realize their playoff aspirations, one crucial factor will be the play of presumptive starting goalie Freddy Porges '14. The senior takes over after three years of backup duty, and with Hamilton losing its two starting center fullbacks, the brunt of the defensive leadership falls squarely on his shoulders.

Porges hopes the knowledge he's gained over the past three years will raise his game this season. He said, "Being a goalkeeper is almost all about making the right decision in game situations. College level soccer is really fast-paced, and one bad decision as a goalkeeper can be the difference between giving up a goal and making a save. After playing at this level for the past three years, I have a greater understanding of the right decision to make in certain situations."

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH COMATOS '15

Goalie Liza Gergenti '14 passes to a teammate during practice.

If the men's side is all about overcoming bad breaks, the women's program is attempting to overcome the loss of arguably the greatest player in school history. Alex Rimmer '13 finished her career as Hamilton's all-time leading scorer, and while the team does have nine returning starters, her absence in the lineup is impossible to ignore.

"We don't really have a player to replace Alex; Alex was extremely talented," said Head Coach Colette Gilligan. "We have some players we are moving into that position who I think could be successful, but how successful remains to be seen."

Gilligan pinpointed Hannah Withiam '16, the team's leading returning scorer, as someone to look out for. "She's got tremendous athletic ability," praised Gilligan. "She does have the ability to go one-on-one versus players, and she's got a very good outside shot when she takes it. All the attributes are there."

Withiam was generally an attacking center midfielder in her freshman campaign, but she is ready to bear more responsibility if needed, while also keeping the team's egalitarian emphasis in mind.

"[Rimmer] was a big presence up top last year for opposing defenses, so her loss will no doubt require some changes," observed Withiam. "However, I have a lot of faith in our returning core and new players to step up and collectively assume that role. I am definitely looking to take more shots this year and be a greater scoring threat, but it will be a complete team effort this season."

One factor that may help is the team's playing structure, which discourages an overreliance on a single star. The Conts play an un

see ***Soccer****, page 15*

Katie White '16 scores baseball internship close to home

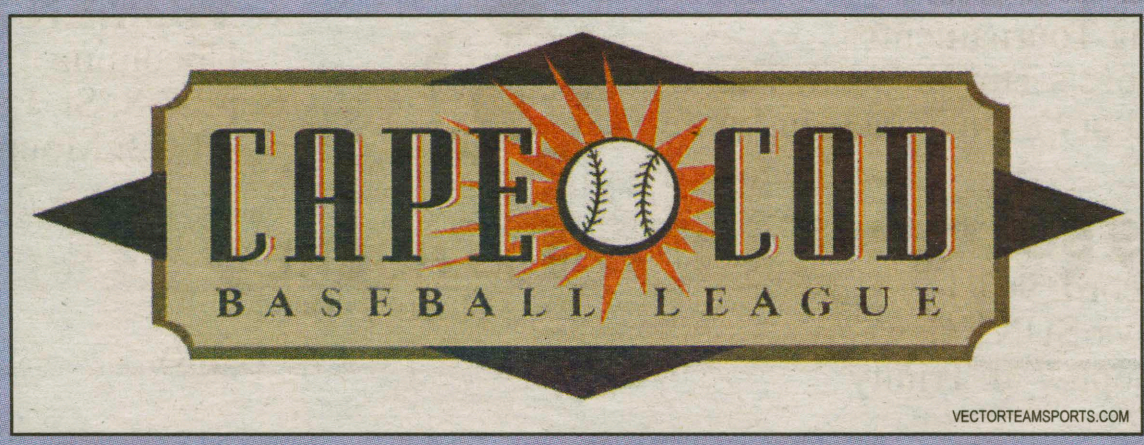
by Ben Fields '15
Sports Editor

While many Hamilton students pursue internships in finance or politics during their summer vacations, others choose to follow their passion into the world of sports. Sophomore Katie White spent her summer interning for the Cape Cod Baseball League in Massachusetts.

The Cape League is known as one of the premier leagues for collegiate baseball players in the country. Founded in 1885, the league claims one-in-seven current Major League players among its alumni. Some of the recent alums include Jacoby Ellsbury, Nomar Garciaparra and Mark Teixeira. The league provides an opportunity for collegiate players from across the country to move into a host family's house on the Cape and stay through mid-August. They play a total of 44 games during the summer, often in front of various Major League scouts. This is the first chance for many of these college players to use a wooden bat, and it provides them with the opportunity to play an MLB-like schedule, with games almost every night.

Growing up in Falmouth, MA, White has spent her summers watching her local Cape League franchise, the Falmouth Commodores. Starting about five summers ago, she and her family began hosting players at their house for the summer. That gave her the chance to get to know the players she had watched as a kid on a more personal level. This connection led her to seek out an internship with the League this summer.

As an intern for the Commodores, she spent her summer working as a scouting liaison for Major League Baseball. This unique opportunity to see the behind-the-scenes aspects of a working baseball organization gave her a new perspective on the league she grew up watching. Interning with the Commodores, White worked one-on-one with scouts from various Major League teams and was able to learn more about the scouting process. A part of this included insuring that the scouts had the most updated player statistics and information during the games. Aside from her specific jobs during the games, she was responsible for managing the teams Twitter account. She tweeted various bits of information from the game conditions to the starting pitchers, or whatever else the Commodores' manager wanted.



Although unsure of where she wants to go in life, White is certain that this was a valuable internship. "Although I am not entirely sure what I would like to do, I know that I want to be involved in sports," she reflected thinking back on her summer. Working with Hamilton's athletics broadcasting both men's and women's hockey in the winter has made her think of possibly pursuing a future in sports broadcasting.

Looking to the future, White says, "I know that the more experience I have with internships in sports these next few years, the more I will be able to narrow down my career goals." No matter what field she might play on, or work in, White has set herself up for success.